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No Fee Unless You Win!

Iran ready to free American hikers

Imprisoned since '09, Elkins Park native Josh Fattal given $500,000 bail despite his conviction on spy charges Expert calls 'ransom' quite common in Iran {page 02}

RICARD LARMA/METRO

Eagles. Cheerleaders

▶ The 38-member squad posed yesterday for their annual calendar and a surprise for fans. Find out what it is on page 04 and go to metro.us for more photos from the shoot.

Television

Insurance companies go with Flo

Chances are you've seen an insurance ad — or 20 — lately Multiple campaigns target multiple demographics {page 14}

Megan Fox says she was too slim

The actress on her vegan diet and what she plans to do to get her curves back {page 10}

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Catholic high schools closing for strike

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia will close 17 area high schools for more than 16,000 students starting today after rejecting the latest call for mediation in the seven-day teachers' strike.

More than 700 teachers hit the picket line on Sept. 6, but schools opened the following day as administrators conducted orientation. Yesterday, the archdiocese made the decision to close schools until a deal is reached, although sports and after-school activities will continue.

The two sides had yet to reach agreement on several items, such as wages, hiring of part-time teachers, extension of the work day and use of technology in the classroom by last night. After the archdiocese twice rejected the union's request for mediation, Pat Eiding, president of the local AFL-CIO, sent both sides a letter urging the sides to meet with a third party, but the archdiocese says it will not.

"We believe that we know our schools, our students, our parents and our teachers better than anyone else," said Theresa Ryan-Szott, chief negotiator for the archdiocese. METRO/SDL

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ No teachers, no class.

Josh Fattal home 'in a couple days'

Attorney for two American hikers arrested in Iran says bail has been granted ◐ Ahmadinejad told 'Today' he expects them released this week

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Alex Fattal hasn't seen his family since May 2010, but could return to Elkins Park this week.

The families of two American hikers detained in Iran are preparing for their release this week a day after an Iranian court set bail at $500,000 for each of them.

Elkins Park native Josh Fattal and Shane Bauer, of Minnesota, have been detained since July 2009 when they crossed into Iran while hiking and were accused of espionage, along with Sarah Shourd, who was released last year due to medical concerns.

The hikers' attorney Masoud Shafiei told media outlets the two would pay the same amount as Shourd when she was released.

"The families of these two Americans and the Swiss embassy, which hosts the U.S. interests section in Tehran, have been informed of this issue and Bauer and Fattal can leave Iran similar to Sara Shourd," Shafiei said, according to Fars News Agency in Iran.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said the two could be free "in a couple days" in a prerecorded interview on NBC's "Today" show, which aired yesterday. Ahmadinejad described it as a "humanitarian gesture" and referred several times to Iranians being held in U.S. prisons.

Last month, Fatal and Bauer were convicted on spy-related charges and sentenced to eight years in prison, while Shourd was convicted in absentia.

The U.S. government has repeatedly called for the release of the hikers since their capture. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said the United States was "encouraged" by Ahmadinejad's most recent comments.

SOLOMON D. LEACH
sleach@metro.us

'Ransom' not uncommon

Allowing the Americans to pay their way out of the country despite a conviction last month didn't surprise one Muslim world expert, who described the bail as a sort of ransom to allow Iran "to get off of a very high tree that was not supporting them."

"This is actually according to Muslim tradition," said University of Denver professor Shaul Gabbay, a leading authority on the Middle East. "Even in some cases where blood revenge is involved, you can have ransom money instead [of violent action]. So in general, financial arrangements even for the life of an individual is not uncommon."

BRIAN X. MCCRONE

Robber finally nabbed

ROXBOROUGH. Frank Roccia, dubbed the "Roxborough Robber," has allegedly confessed to robbing four Northwest Philadelphia banks between Aug. 30 and Sept. 7.

Roccia was taken into custody last Friday when employees at the Citizens Bank on the 8300 block of Ridge Avenue called police to report that a suspicious man they believed to be the serial robber had just left the branch.

Officers canvassed the area and arrested Roccia. He made away with about $5500 during his nine-day crime spree. METRO/AW

Layoffs loom at Inky, DN

CENTER CITY. The Philadelphia Inquirer and Daily News announced a spate of layoffs yesterday in the wake of declining advertising revenue.

According to reports, 20 jobs will be cut, including three photographers, as well as library, computer, advertising and graphics positions.

CEO Bob Hall reportedly said that 2011 ad revenue fell more than 10 percent through July, twice the decline projected for the first seven months of the year. METROAW

In the news

57%

Americans who have little or no faith in Congress up from 49 percent in 2010, according to a poll released yesterday by The Associated Press and the National Constitution Center. Congress also ranked the least trusted among 19 institutions.

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Cheerleaders show off at Bartram's

Eagles cheerleaders took turns posing in one of Philadelphia's oldest attractions, Bartram's Gardens, for photographs that will become part of their 21st century attraction: a smartphone application by the NFL called "Cheerleader Calendar Mobile App."

The women were the first squad to have their photos taken for the new site.

"One of our core values at Bartram's Gardens is that nature is a source of inspiration in our lives because nature is so beautiful," the gardens' executive director Louise Turan said yesterday during the photo shoot. "Certainly, looking at these girls, there's no lack of inspiration."

"Philadelphia is lucky to have so many treasures. Bartram's Gardens is certainly one ... so are Philadelphia's sports teams. We're happy today to have brought them both together." TURAN

Turan said the gorgeous and colorful backdrop seemed perfect for the cheerleaders.

All 38 cheerleaders of the Eagles squad will be featured on the phone app, which will be unveiled late next month. METRO

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ Arielle Henriques, 20, gets ready for the shoot yesterday.

Outdoor market opens in Frankford

FRANKFORD. City and SEPTA officials opened a new farmers market at the Frankford Transportation Center in Northeast Philadelphia yesterday.

The market will be open every Tuesday from 2 to 6 p.m. through the end of October. It's a collaborative effort between the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, the Food Trust, the Mayor's Office of Transportation and Utilities and SEPTA.

It is one of 25 farmers markets across the city opened under Get Healthy Philly, a federally-funded initiative to combat obesity by making healthy choices more accessible to low-income residents. METRO/AW

"The ... market combines access to healthy options with sustainable food systems, local economic growth and transit-oriented development." NUTTER

Playground murder hearing held

STRAWBERRY MANSION. An 18-year-old man was held for trial on murder yesterday in connection with a June shooting at Mander Recreation Center.

Amir Jamal is accused of fatally shooting Nyeme Taylor, 30, on June 26 after Taylor came to the playground in defense of his teen son. He is also accused of wounding three girls, including Taylor's daughter. METRO/AW

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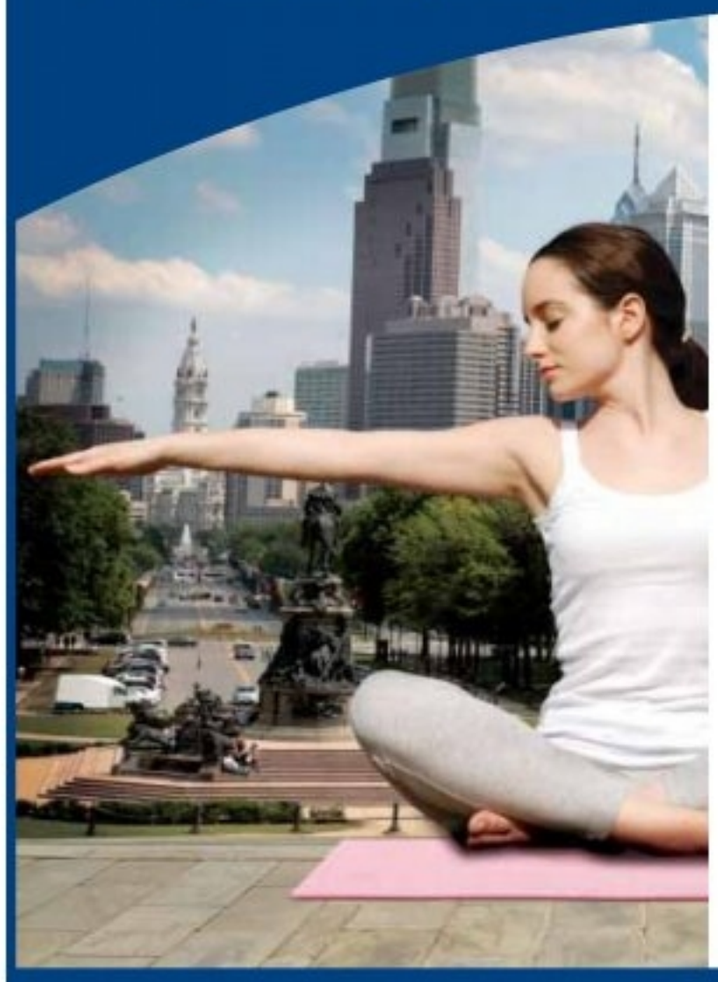

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Opinion

ROB WONDERLING
PRESIDENT AND CEO, GREATER PHILADELPHIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CREATING JOBS IS THE NO. 1 JOB

Every two years, the Bureau of Labor Statistics lists projections of the 30 fastest growing careers. The projections show that the total number of people employed in the United States will increase 10 percent — roughly 15 million — by 2016. However, some types of jobs will grow at a much faster rate during that period.

The careers on the list range from the obvious health care assistant to the not-so-obvious gaming officer. While the list cannot predict the future of our economy, it's interesting nonetheless. As we attempt to climb out of the Great Recession, growing the number of jobs will be key to improving the overall health of our economy.

As I am writing, the Greater Philadelphia region's unemployment rate stands at 8.7 percent. The city of Philadelphia's rate is 10.5 percent. Pennsylvania as a whole fares better at 7.6 percent, and the U.S. is at 9.1 percent.

Today, stories about unemployment, jobs and our economy are the most commonly featured subject in print and video. As someone who runs the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, I can tell you that despite the endless cycle of bad news, there are numerous efforts under way by the business community to help citizens, companies and entrepreneurs grow and prosper.

One such program, the Chamber's Supplier Network Series, connects small-business owners and executives with the region's foremost procurement officers. By enhancing their marketability and developing their business strategies, participating companies are now able to compete for contracts with the region's larger companies. The educational and networking series is seeing tangible results as more and more small companies — including woman-owned, minority-owned, and veteran-owned — are gaining direct business connection to the procurement executives and learning the secrets of securing contracts with large regional companies and government agencies.

To help connect young people with jobs, the chamber along with TD Bank and WorkReady Philadelphia sponsors paid internships for teens living in Philadelphia and Chester. In its fifth year, the initiative encourages companies of all sizes to change the life of a young person by providing them a job. Since 2006, almost 5,000 students have taken part in this important program.

– Rob Wonderling is president and CEO of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce. His column appears the second Wednesday of each month.

Quoted

"As I am writing, the greater Philadelphia region's unemployment rate stands at 8.7 percent. The city of Philadelphia's rate is 10.5 percent. Pennsylvania as a whole fares better at 7.6 percent, and the U.S. is at 9.1 percent."
WONDERLING

Contact the Chamber

Helping businesses grow is what the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce is all about. If you have any questions about how we can assist your organization, please visit our website at greaterphilachamber.com or e-mail me at rwonderling@greaterphilachamber.com.

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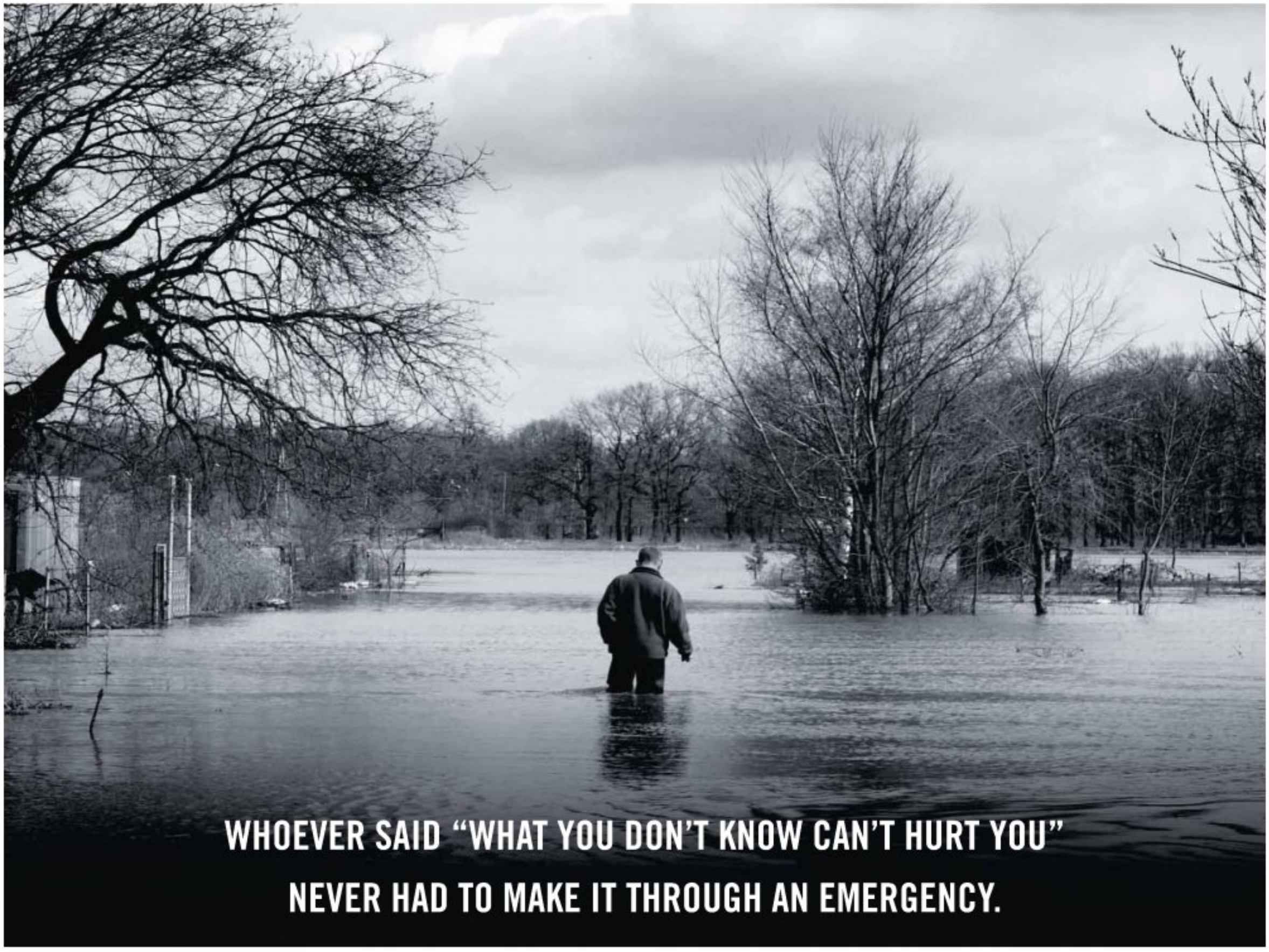

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▶ Washington politicians negotiate how to tweak retirement to make 401(k) plans more efficient, keep Social Security afloat and save some money for the federal treasury.

Hoping to retire? Politicians at work debating fine print

U.S. retirement programs could look different if a grand deficit-cutting bargain is struck in upcoming negotiations.

Tomorrow, the powerful Senate Finance Committee will explore "Tax Reform Options: Promoting Retirement Security." Among the ideas being floated are a replacement of the 401(k) deduction, changes in the withdrawal choices that workers face when they retire and a shift in the way Social Security benefits are calculated. That is on top of the increase in the retirement age that has been mentioned several times in recent months.

$6.6T

The so-called "retirement deficit" — the difference between what Americans have saved for retirement and what they should have saved — has been put at $6.6 trillion by Boston College's Center for Retirement Research.

A variety of pressures and trends have come together to put these new ideas on the table. Prominent members of both political parties have talked up the idea of loophole-closing, rate-lowering tax reform.

Put all of it together, and it points to changes in the sprawling retirement system. "The kinds of points at which you can get fundamental changes adopted is in the midst of a big deal," says Dallas Salisbury, who has been watching retirement policy closely as head of the Employee Benefit Research Institute. "And President Obama wants a grand bargain." REUTERS

Debt crisis roils Europe

BERLIN. International alarm over Europe's debt crisis reached new heights yesterday, with President Obama pressing the bloc's big countries to show leadership as talk of a Greek default escalated and markets heaped pressure on Italy. German Chancellor Angela Merkel sought to quash talk of an imminent Greek default or exit from the euro zone, but confusion sent markets gyrating. REUTERS

46M

The number of Americans living below the poverty line rose to a record 46 million last year, the government said yesterday, underscoring the challenges facing President Barack Obama and Congress as they try to tackle high unemployment and a moribund economy. REUTERS

Greenspan: Tax reform

WASHINGTON. Former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan called for tax reform to be part of an urgent effort to put the U.S. economy back on track.

"Tax reform is a major part of any fiscal reform," he told a Senate panel."

Greenspan endorsed tax and entitlement reform recommendations made last year by the White House's bipartisan commission. REUTERS

US Embassy attacked in Afghanistan

Taliban fighters fired rockets at the U.S. Embassy and NATO headquarters in Kabul yesterday and attacked police in three other areas in the biggest assault the insurgent group has mounted on the Afghan capital.

At least nine people were killed and 23 wounded in the four attacks, and a gunbattle around a half-built high-rise building raged on into the evening as NATO and Afghan attack helicopters circled overhead.

The fighters had chosen a strategic and heavily fortified main target for the well-coordinated attacks.

Their ability to shower artillery around the diplomatic district was a clear show of strength at a time when NATO-led forces are claiming significant security gains and preparing for their exit by 2014.

Although the Taliban have attacked multiple targets in Kabul in the past, this is the first time they have organized simultaneous assaults on such separate areas. REUTERS

Quoted

"The scale of today's attack is unprecedented."
ANDREW EXUM, FELLOW AT THE CENTER FOR A NEW AMERICAN SECURITY

ALEX GALLARDO/REUTERS

▶ Microsoft Windows President Steven Sinofsky introduces the new tablet running a test version of Windows 8.

Windows 8 unveiled

Microsoft handed out 5,000 Samsung tablet computers running a test version of Windows 8 at its annual developer conference yesterday, hoping to stoke excitement over its new operating system that includes features tailored for touch screens and tablets. REUTERS

Man who said he was abducted by aliens dies

Charles Hickson, the Mississippi man who claimed he was abducted and probed by aliens while he was fishing with a friend in 1973 and never backed off the story despite the ridicule he endured, has died.

Hickson, 80, died last Friday of a heart attack, his family said yesterday.

Hickson, then 42, was fishing with 19-year-old Calvin Parker Jr. on a pier near Pascagoula, Miss., in October 1973 when they said a cigar-shaped UFO with flashing blue lights suddenly appeared above them.

"They weren't lying. Whatever it was, it was real to them."
CHIEF INVESTIGATOR FOR JACKSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Although Hickson was reluctant to share the story, he and Parker eventually went to local police and reported the incident. REUTERS

Senate panel backs Pentagon budget freeze

WASHINGTON. A Senate panel yesterday approved defense spending of about $630 billion for the 2012 fiscal year, freezing the Pentagon's base budget at $513 billion for a second straight year while seeking nearly $118 billion for U.S. wars abroad.

The $513 billion Pentagon base budget would be $26 billion less than requested by President Barack Obama and nearly $20 billion less than approved by the House of Representatives. REUTERS

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FRED BEANS REPEATS HISTORIC USED CAR SALE

Doylestown, PA - Fred Beans, CEO and Founder of the Fred Beans Automotive Group located in Doylestown PA, has announced a **ONE DAY SALE** on Saturday, September 17th at 9:30 AM, where pre-owned vehicles will be sold for as low as **$999**. This sale is being held due to overwhelming public demand.

Cars will be clearly marked, so come early for the best selection. This is a **ONE DAY ONLY** sale designed to get the local community driving again.

Fred Beans' pre-owned inventory levels need to be reduced to make room for shipments of new models arriving daily. As a result, **All 7 Fred Beans Doylestown locations are selling these overstocked pre-owned vehicles to the public at drastic discounts in an attempt to clear excess inventory**.

In addition to this huge variety of pre-owned vehicles, the Fred Beans Family of Dealerships in Doylestown features new Ford, Lincoln, Mitsubishi, Dodge, Chrysler, Jeep, Hyundai, Nissan, Subaru, Chevrolet, Cadillac, Buick, GMC, and Saab vehicles. Fred Beans believes reviving the economy starts at home, and changing things locally will lead to changing things nationally.

In addition to the Fred Beans Family of Dealerships' extra inventory, additional vehicles have been acquired at incredible prices from various banks, repossession companies, auto auctions, credit unions, lease companies, and rental companies for this sale.

The sale will make pre-owned vehicles available for as low as **$999**, prices not normally offered to the general public. According to Fred Beans, ***"We want to give our customers a reason to believe in the local economy again. Someone has to look out for their best interests."***

Customers are encouraged to arrive as early as 9:00AM to inspect the entire inventory and find the car that is right for them. Every vehicle will be cleaned, detailed, and fully prepared for instant delivery. On the evening of September 16th after close of business, Mr. Beans and his team will mark the special sale price on each and every vehicle.

Because Fred Beans' customers are feeling the credit crunch right now, the Fred Beans Automotive Group has given the dealerships' financing managers the resources necessary to get most customers' credit approved on the spot.

The Fred Beans Family of Dealerships has $10,000,000 in lending power, the result of over 50 years of strong relationships with the area's leading lenders. This means that customers with "less than perfect" credit history can have their credit approved and drive a quality pre-owned car, truck, or SUV home by lunchtime on Saturday.

Even if a customer's credit report shows a bankruptcy, divorce, tax lien, slow payment history, missed payment, or repossession, or if a customer is a first time buyer, Fred Beans may get them approved.

This special **ONE DAY ONLY** sale will be held at all 7 Fred Beans Doylestown locations this Saturday, September 17th, at 9:30AM. **Pre-owned vehicles will be sold for as low as $999.** Customers are encouraged to arrive as early as 9:00AM for the start of inspection. Incredible sale prices, starting as low as **$999**, will be posted no later than 9:30AM. All vehicles will be sold on a first come, first serve basis. The Fred Beans Family of Dealerships is expecting a high volume of customers for this sale, so be sure to reserve your spot early.

Customers wishing to trade in a vehicle are asked to bring their title or payment book for immediate delivery. Fred Beans will even pay off your trade-in in full, no matter how much you still owe on it.

Most of these surplus pre-owned vehicles will get sent directly to auto auctions for liquidation. So, if anyone has been thinking about purchasing a good, clean, dependable pre-owned car, truck, van or sport utility vehicle, do not miss this special **ONE DAY ONLY** sale.

For more information about this sale and directions to our locations please visit us online at **fredbeans.com or call 1-866-920-9612**

$999 SALE DEALERSHIP DIRECTORY • 1-866-920-9612

FRED BEANS Ford Lincoln Mitsubishi	FRED BEANS Dodge Chrysler Jeep	FRED BEANS Chevrolet	FRED BEANS Cadillac Buick GMC Saab	FRED BEANS Subaru	FRED BEANS Hyundai	FRED BEANS Nissan
876 N Easton Rd., Doylestown	858 N Easton Rd., Doylestown	845 N Easton Rd., Doylestown	841 N Easton Rd., Doylestown	830 N Easton Rd., Doylestown	4465 W Swamp Rd., Doylestown	4469 W Swamp Rd., Doylestown

*At least four vehicles on Fred Beans' lots will be sold for as low as $999 on September 17th, 2011. All offers to qualified buyers. Cannot be combined with other offers.

myentertainment

THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Jessica Simpson is looking for direction, Sarah Silverman hasn't been enjoying the Toronto International Film Festival, Donald Glover has a soft spot for hipsters, and Seth MacFarlane is enjoying his success.

▶ @JessicaSimpson What kind of music would y'all want from me on my next album? Thinking about going back to the studio

▶ @SarahK Silverman: I'm pretty much done watching actors & actresses pensively looking out windows

▶ @DonaldGlover I'm enjoying these girls dressed like faux tomboys in the 70s.

▶ @SethMacFarlane Wow- I hit a million followers and Twitter sent me a pink Cadillac.

Jessica Simpson

Megan Fox: 'I lost too much weight'

Megan Fox tells Amica magazine that she has dropped too many pounds, so she's ditching her vegan diet. "For a year and a half, until about four months ago, I followed a strict vegan diet based on raw fruits and vegetables, no bread, sugar and coffee," she says. "But I had lost too much weight."

WWW.METRO.US/WORD
DOROTHY ROBINSON'S WORD BLOG

▶ Megan Fox attended the Toronto International Film Festival last week.

Say what you will about Fox, but that has got to be the first time any starlet has ever admitted to being too skinny.

Speaking of numbers, the actress also says she is totally up for being a mom, but first she needs to pad out her bank account. "I want to have children. I've always wanted kids," she says. "I have a number in my mind of what amount of money I want in the bank so that I can protect my child's future."

Hmmm. I wonder if that number has less to do with how much she has saved and is more about "what I, Megan Fox, will command from a major motion picture before I sabotage a career based on looks by having a child."

STEPHEN LOVEKIN/GETTY IMAGES FOR THE WEINSTEIN COMPANY

Movie. Premiere

▶ From left: Olivia Munn, Greg Kinnear, Sarah Jessica Parker and Christina Hendricks attend Monday's "I Don't Know How She Does It" premiere.

This is how she does it

You know what's a great way for Sarah Jessica Parker to hide the fact that she has a large nose? Make sure she stands next to Christina Hendricks' cleavage. Here are the two actresses at the premiere of their new movie, "I Don't Know How She Does It," on Monday in New York City.

Eva Longoria speaks the truth

Eva Longoria admits it's a little too soon after her split from **Tony Parker** to think about settling down again. "I'm not opposed to it, I just don't really give it a lot of thought," Longoria tells Access Hollywood. "Ask a woman after divorce if she's going to get married, you won't get an honest answer."

Talking points

Aguilera stays on

Producers behind reality singing competition "The Voice" have no plans to ditch judge **Christina Aguilera**, despite rumors that the singer isn't going to be part of the show's second season. "There is absolutely no truth to the rumor," NBC's **Paul Telegdy** says in an official statement. Aguilera is still under contract for Season 2, which premieres in February.

▶ Aguilera

Madonna pokes fun at herself

Madonna is making the most out of her "I hate hydrangeas" gaffe from the Venice International Film Festival. The singer has released a video on YouTube showing her, in silent film style, apologizing to a bouquet. "You have no idea how many nights I have lost thinking how I hurt you. Words cannot express how sorry I am," the subtitles read, until the tone changes and she lashes out at the flowers. "I still hate hydrangeas! And I will always hate them! It's a free country! So f— you, I like roses," the video says as Madonna screams and stomps on the hydrangeas.

▶ Madonna

▶ Prince Harry

Harry rakes in the dough

If the whole royal family or military thing doesn't work out, **Prince Harry** could have a career in finance. The 26-year-old royal set a record for closing the largest foreign exchange deal while manning the phones during a charity event, completing a $24.5 billion swap between Barclays London and a European counterpart, according to the London Metro. Harry earned $9,000 commission for the effort, which he plans to donate to charity.

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More TIFF and a little bit of Coco

▶ **1:** Madonna spoke onstage at the 'W.E.' premiere at TIFF Bell Lightbox during the 2011 Toronto International Film Festival on Monday in Toronto, Canada.

▶ **2:** Uh-oh. Is this going to be a new collaboration? Lenny Kravitz and Gwyneth Paltrow hugged at an after-party following Kravitz's gig with Absolute Radio, which launched his new album "Black and White America" in London on Monday.

▶ **3:** Coco and Ice-T attended The Paley Center For Media Presents "Planet Rock: The Story of Hip-Hop & the Crack Generation" at The Paley Center for Media on Monday in New York City.

▶ **4:** Actress Vanessa Paradis (aka Johnny Depp's baby mama) attended the "Cafe De Flore" premiere at the 2011 Toronto International Film Festival on Monday.

▶ **5:** Lea Michele glammed it up at the FOX Fall-Eco Casino Party (the name of that party makes no sense) on Monday in Culver City, Calif.

▶ **6:** Jenna Dewan-Tatum and Justin Long attended the "Ten Year" premiere at Ryerson Theatre during the 2011 Toronto International Film Festival on Monday in Toronto.

▶ **7:** Hugh Jackman (Hahahaha! Look at that little bike!) is seen riding away from an interview at BBC Radio One yesterday in London.

1: KEVIN MAZUR/WIREIMAGE
2: DAVE M. BENETT/GETTY IMAGES
3: JOHN W. FERGUSON/GETTY IMAGES
4: GEORGE PIMENTEL/WIREIMAGE
5: FREDERICK M. BROWN/GETTY IMAGES
6: ALBERTO E. RODRIGUEZ/GETTY IMAGES
7: NEIL MOCKFORD/FILMMAGIC

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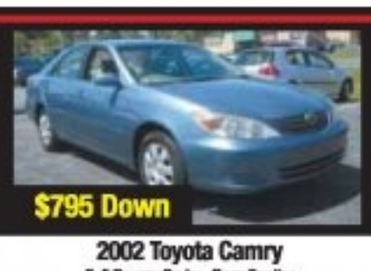
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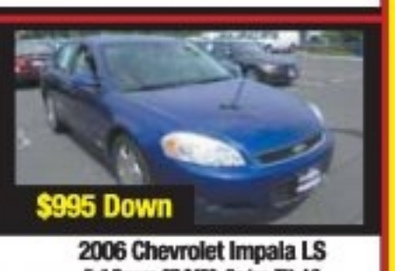
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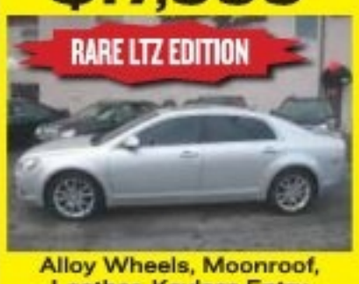

Alloy Wheels, Moonroof, Leather, Keyless Entry

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2005 MERCEDES BENZ
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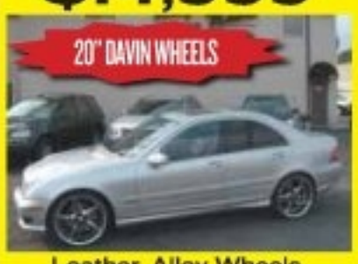
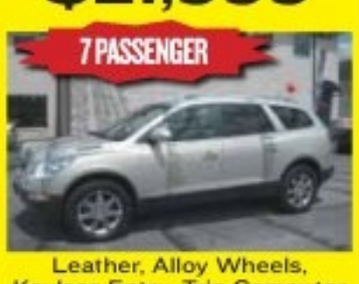
$14,999


Leather, Alloy Wheels, Sunroof, All Power

2008 BUICK
Enclave CXL
$21,999


Leather, Alloy Wheels, Keyless Entry, Trip Computer

2005 AUDI
A4 1.8T Quattro
$13,999

AWD, Alloy Wheels, Leather, Sunroof

2003 INFINITI
FX-45
$17,999

AWD, Leather, Moonroof, Privacy Glass, Bluetooth

2010 TOYOTA
Camry
$17,999

6 Speed, Keyless Entry, All Power, AM/FM/CD

2005 TOYOTA
Highlander
$16,999

Alloy Wheels, Privacy Glass, Heated Mirrors, Roof Rack

2003 MINI
Cooper S
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NAVI, Leather, Alloy Wheels, AM/FM/CD

2008 FORD
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Alloy Wheels, All Power, Keyless Entry, AWD

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TV watch list

TRAE PATTON/NBC

▶ "Up All Night"

'Up All Night'

COMEDY. Christina Applegate and Will Arnett play new parents attempting to keep some semblance of their cool former lives — not to mention their sanity — after the baby arrives. Both actors are comedy pros who have great chemistry as the totally recognizable couple simply trying to be the best mom and dad they can be — which of course results in plenty of funny situations (like hangover diaper changes). **Series premiere, 10 p.m., NBC**

'America's Next Top Model'

REALITY. All-stars! As former contestants return to the competition, expect even more attitude than usual from models who think they know everything about the industry but have little to show for it since their first appearance on the show. **Season premiere, 9 p.m., The CW**

'America's Got Talent'

REALITY. The talent pool has been whittled down to four in your grandma's favorite summertime series; the country's biggest talent show ends when America crowns either jazz singer Landau Eugene Murphy, Jr., young soul band POPLYFE, or one of the remaining dance troupes, Silhouettes or Team iLuminate. **Season finale, 8 p.m., NBC** AMBER RAY

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FOR MORE METRO TV COVERAGE

MTV2 must-see

The fierce LFL ladies are back for the 2011-2012 season! Watch Orlando Fantasy take on Baltimore Charm this Friday at 10 p.m., live on MTV2.

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Why are there so many insurance advertisements?

Flo, the perky Progressive insurance lady

- On top of the glut of insurance companies in America, each of them has at least two separate ad campaigns
- From geckos to mayhem, what's with the overkill?

There's the "Mayhem" guy for Allstate, the Geico Gecko, Flo — the overly enthusiastic Progressive saleslady — and the equally perky "Nationwide is on your side" guy. But wait! Then there's also Dennis Haysbert for Allstate, the Rod Serling Geico guy, the Messenger dude from Progressive and Dale Earnhardt Jr. for Nationwide.

Overkill? Some of us may think so, but Joel Ohman, financial planner and founder of Carinsurancecomparison.com, informs us that there's actually a reason for such an oversaturation of insurance advertising.

"One unique thing about insurance marketing is that there are so many different demographics that can be targeted," Ohman says. "Anyone age 16 and up that drives a car is usually in the market for at least car insurance. This is one reason why car insurance companies have so many different ad campaigns — so that they can reach many different demographics."

▶ Allstate's "Mayhem" campaign

Many credit Geico for the demonstrable shift to multiple ad campaigns — including Ricardo de la Blanca, CEO of global marketing agency DLB Group.

"Warren Buffett is a person that really understands the power of marketing, and he was always pushing the company to do more with marketing," de la Blanca says of the billionaire who owns Geico insurance's parent company, Berkshire Hathaway.

The Gecko ad campaign was launched in 2000, four years after Buffett took over at Geico. Two years later, the company had 5 million policyholders. Geico enlisted cavemen and the Rod Serling guy to hawk their services soon after; today, the company boasts more than 10 million clients.

Now it seems like competing insurance companies are rushing to catch up with their own multi-spokesman approaches.

"[Geico] moved from the No. 3 slot to the No. 2 slot," de la Blanca reports. "When a No. 3 in a competition moves so far and so fast, everybody starts trying to fight for this piece of the market."

HEIDI PATALANO
heidi.patalano@metro.us

Right from the source

We asked Allstate spokeswoman Jaclyn Darrohn if the "Mayhem" and Dennis Haysbert "Truth About Insurance" campaigns were a reaction to Geico's multiple campaigns.

▶ "The launch of the 'Mayhem' and 'Truth About Insurance' campaigns were not developed as a reaction to what our competitors are doing, rather a strategic shift to reinforce the value message to consumers," she says. "The insurance category is increasingly competitive and Allstate strives to market to current and prospective customers in relevant ways."

The Geico Gecko

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Earrings	$10,500	Garnets Jewelry	$1,000
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*$2.50	1840 to 1929	*$5.00	1839 to 1908	*$20.00	1850 to 1933
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$10.00	1793 13 Leaves Below Eagle, 1796 9 Leaves Below Eagle	Up To	$20,500
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Mon-Sat: 10am-9pm
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Lower Level Next To The Customer Service Information Booth
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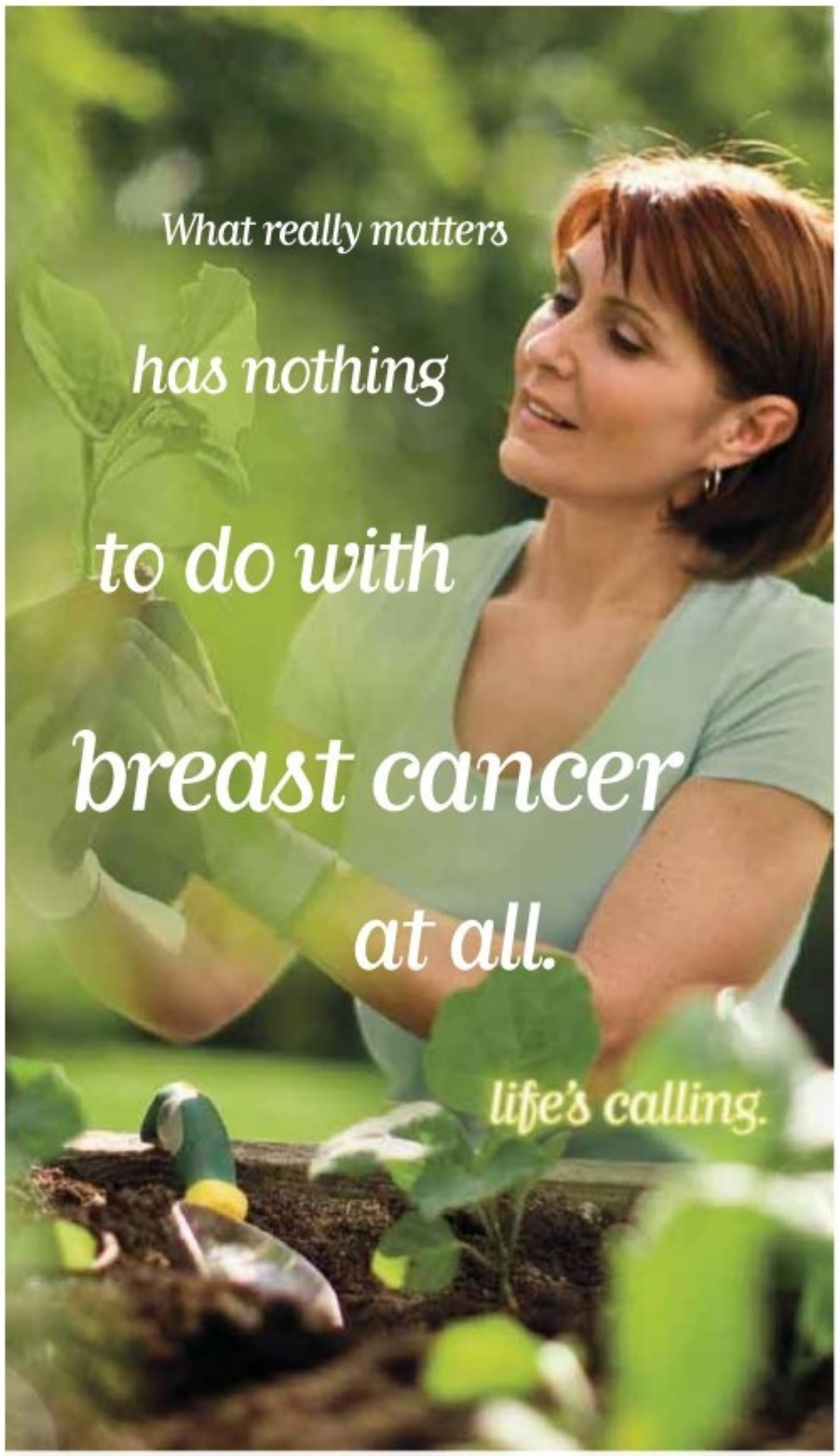

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myentertainment

A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

- 'Traces' takes the circus arts to new heights
- Director Shana Carroll on the very physical Live Arts show
- How she's staying grounded

COURTESY OF 7 FINGERS

▶ Don't try "Traces" stunts — or any skateboarding stunts — at home.

Shana Carroll is aware that, in the U.S. at least, the term "circus" is more often associated with clowns in undersized cars than world-class performing arts. But it was her term first, and she's sticking by it for "Traces," the latest offering from troupe 7 Fingers, of which she's a founding member.

"There's been a lot of people who have wanted us to change the name because it's not what people expect when they think of a circus," admits Carroll, the show's director and choreographer. "But we think that the understanding of circus has evolved enough, and is still evolving. In Europe, there are many of these small troupes that mix theater and dance."

Incorporating aerial acts, Chinese hoop acrobatics, parkour and an especially tricky-looking device known as the "Cyr wheel," "Traces" is a high-energy, high-risk performance — something Carroll is all too familiar with after years in the air herself. "Sometimes I wish my daughter would have a chance to see me on the trapeze. But there's a lot of fear involved, and it's painful," she says. "I was passionately in love with trapeze for many years; but at some point, I started thinking that I should spend more time on the ground."

If you go

"Traces" is part of the Live Arts Festival, presented with the Kimmel Center.

Thursday-Sunday
Merriam Theater
250 S. Broad St.
$20-$45, 215-893-1999
www.kimmelcenter.org

MONICA WEYMOUTH
monica.weymouth@metro.us

myentertainment

It's not your average high school theater

Hitting the stage tonight at the Philly Fringe, 'BASH' is directed by 17-year-old Pascale Smith

RILESMITH ARTS

▶ Hey Pascale — Google tells us that today is "Felt Hat Day," in case you were in the mood to drop off some brownies.

With its inclusive attitude and 200-plus roster of performances, Philly Fringe features plenty of shows that may not make it on a typical stage — such as "BASH," directed by 17-year-old Pascale Smith.

Smith's career in Philly's performing arts scene started with a lucky break when she was cast as Marybeth in M. Night Shyamalan's "The Village." "I had no experience acting before, and I only went to the audition because I saw a notice in the newspaper and had nothing better to do," says Smith. "I fell in love, and decided to pursue acting."

Since then, she has studied theater and dance, and recently began writing. Having completed three short plays, she has already received recognition in the 2011 VSA Playwright Discovery competition and won first place in the Philadelphia Young Playwrights contest.

Written by Neil LaBute, "BASH" is a story in three parts featuring three actors. A business man, a young woman and a Mormon couple tell their stories in a show that challenges the audience's beliefs towards the evils of the world.

This show will be Smith's directorial debut. Although she admits it was an intimidating process, "my background as an actor has really informed my choices as a director," she says.

Although an unusually busy teenager, Smith still has time outside the world of performance to focus on her guilty pleasure: baking — lots of baking. "I often show up at people's doorsteps with a plate of cupcakes and a thin excuse about Flag Day."

If you go

'BASH'
Tonight through Saturday
Moonstone Arts Center
110A S. 13th St.
www.livearts-fringe.org

YOTAM DROR
letters@metro.us

Metro Picks

JASON FRANK ROTHENBERG

▶ "Twelfth Night, or What You Will"

Last minute Live Arts

The festival runs up Saturday, but there's still plenty of time to see:

▶ **'Twelfth Night, or What You Will'**
Pig Iron Theatre Company is using Shakespeare's original text, but in their hands? Let's just say you didn't read this play in high school.
Through Saturday
Suzanne Roberts Theatre
www.livearts-fringe.org

▶ **'The Radio Show'**
Dance and choreographer Kyle Abraham explores communication — both the loss and the sanctity of it — in this piece inspired by urban radio and the recent death of his father from Alzheimer's disease.
Friday and Saturday
Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts
www.livearts-fringe.org

STEVEN SCHREIBER

▶ "The Radio Show"

Prostate Cancer Screenings

The Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson and Prostate Health International's Gary Papa Run are offering free prostate screenings as part of a research program. Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among men. Screening is important because prostate cancer shows no symptoms in its earliest stages.

Baseline screening is recommended for all men age 35 years and older.

Free screenings, offering a blood test for prostate specific antigen (PSA), testosterone and cholesterol, and a digital rectal exam will take place at the following two locations:

- Wednesday, **September 21, 2011**, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Kimmel Cancer Center – Bodine Building
- Wednesday, **September 28, 2011**, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Radiation Oncology Pavilion at Jefferson's Methodist Hospital

Registration is required. To register for your free screenings, or for more information, call **1-800-JEFF-NOW.**

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COURTESY OF BOAZ ARAD

▶ "Gordon and I" (2001)

Playful and poetic mysteries at the ICA

Do we completely understand the concept behind 'Blowing on a Hairy Shoulder/Grief Hunters'? No, but that doesn't take away from the fun

If the title of the ICA's new exhibition, "Blowing on a Hairy Shoulder/Grief Hunters" doesn't exactly suggest what might be on display inside, well, that's exactly the point, according to curator Doron Rabina.

"The weird title doesn't define the concept of the exhibition," he admitted during a recent walk-through of the show. "It's more poetic than informative."

Given the work that Rabina has selected for the exhibition, one would be hard-pressed to come up with any title that summed up its eclectic subject matter and often puzzling approaches. Consisting of 20 contemporary artists from Rabina's native Israel, Greece, Germany, Belgium, Britain and America, working in video, photography, drawing and sculpture, the only unifying theme seems to be a mystifying playfulness.

COURTESY OF GALERIJA GREGOR PODNAR, BERLIN/LJUBLJANA

▶ Ariel Schlesinger's "Oil Lamp" (2010)

If you go

'Blowing on a Hairy Shoulder/Grief Hunters'
Through Dec. 4
Institute of Contemporary Art, 118 S. 36th St.
Free, 215-898-7108
www.icaphila.org

Ariel Schlesinger's repurposed objects include a lighter-turned-oil lamp and used socks made into a tie and handkerchief (the artist lamented that the piece was "quite old and all the smell is gone"); Gilad Ratman's video features people submerged in mud, breathing through plastic tubes; Eli Petel's installation is a flea market-like aggregation of cast-off objects.

The unifying idea, Rabina finally offered, has to do with "the relationship between two concepts: originality and origin," while the "grief part looks at creativity as rebellion against death or the concept of an end."

SHAUN BRADY
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▶ Uri Nir's digital print "Sphinx" (2006)

COURTESY OF URI NIR

What we're into

Project Valanni

Part of the Philadelphia Collection's ongoing celebration of all things Philly fashion, Valanni's fifth annual fashion show is a "Project Runway"-style competition. Full disclosure: Metro has some guests on the panel and milling around the event. Are we a terribly fashionable bunch? No. But we do very much enjoy watching pretty, fashionable people while drinking cocktails.

Tonight, 10
Valanni, 1229 Spruce St., www.thephiladelphiacollection.org

Feastival

The Philadelphia Live Arts Festival and Philly Fringe don't run on applause and well-wishes alone. Nope — these gigantic productions need serious money to bring world-class artists through our city each year. Tickets to the "Feastival" benefit tonight admittedly aren't cheap, but they come with plenty of perks in addition to supporting the arts: Top restaurants across the city are providing the promised feast, while festival artists will take care of the live entertainment. Spring for the VIP ticket, and you score early admission and private bar service.

Tonight, 6-9
$250-$350, Pier 9, 121 N. Columbus Blvd.
www.phillyfeastival.com

MONICA WEYMOUTH

COURTESY OF FEASTIVAL

▶ The Feastival: Because dinner and a movie doesn't have aerial artists.

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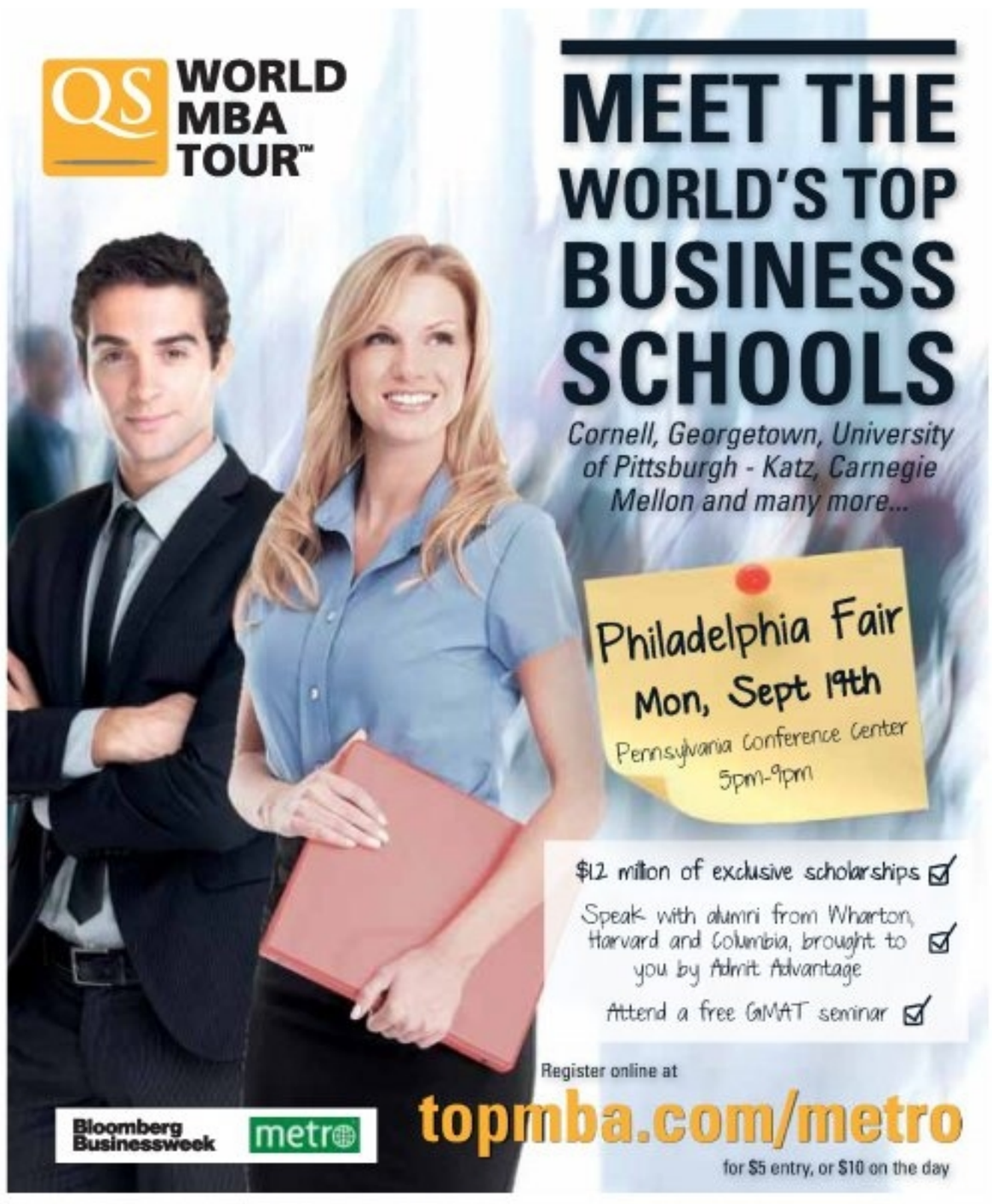
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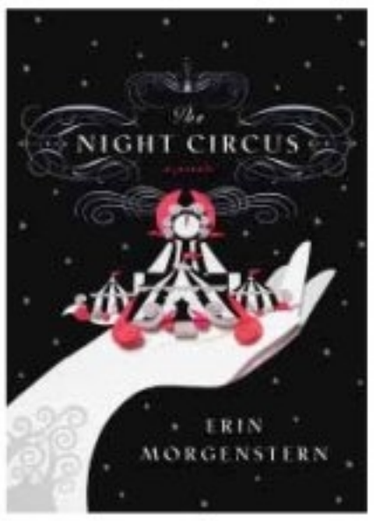
Step right up to this fall's most anticipated release

Erin Morgenstern has more hype surrounding her new book than she knows what to do with Why everyone — from booksellers to movie producers — are talking about her debut fantasy novel, 'The Night Circus'

Erin Morgenstern is having the luck most authors dream of. Her debut novel, "The Night Circus," (out yesterday) is by far the biggest release of the fall. How? Let's count the ways: There's a global marketing campaign underway (rights have been sold in 31 countries), there are 150,000 copies of the book in print (even before its release date), Summit Entertainment (the firm behind the "Twilight" films) bought film rights and is heavily pushing the book on tween buyers, and booksellers are hosting huge circus-themed release parties (a push not seen since the "Harry Potter" days). This is all making Morgenstern, who has never published anything before, apprehensive — but excited.



▶ Morgenstern

"It's wonderful, but at the same time it's hard to wrap my head around. It's hugely flattering and hugely overwhelming," the 33-year-old says from her Boston home. "There's a little trepidation. I'm taking it day by day. It's strange but a good strange."

The reason for the hubbub? "The Night Circus," set in 1886, revolves around a magical traveling circus and two young magicians who fall in love but must vie against one another in a mysterious competition. The book encompasses the best ingredients of past blockbusters. It has elements of "Twilight" (young, taboo love), Harry Potter (magic) and even "The Hunger Games" (a deadly showdown). It also helps that Morgenstern is a capable, fun writer.

Morgenstern attributes the appeal of "The Night Circus" to the fact that the book's use of fantasy is more accessible to the average reader. "I'm more a low-fantasy fan — more of a Murakami person than a Tolkien. I like that when you read low fantasy, it feels more possible."

And as this fall shows, anything is possible for Morgenstern.

DOROTHY ROBINSON
dorothy.robinson@metro.us

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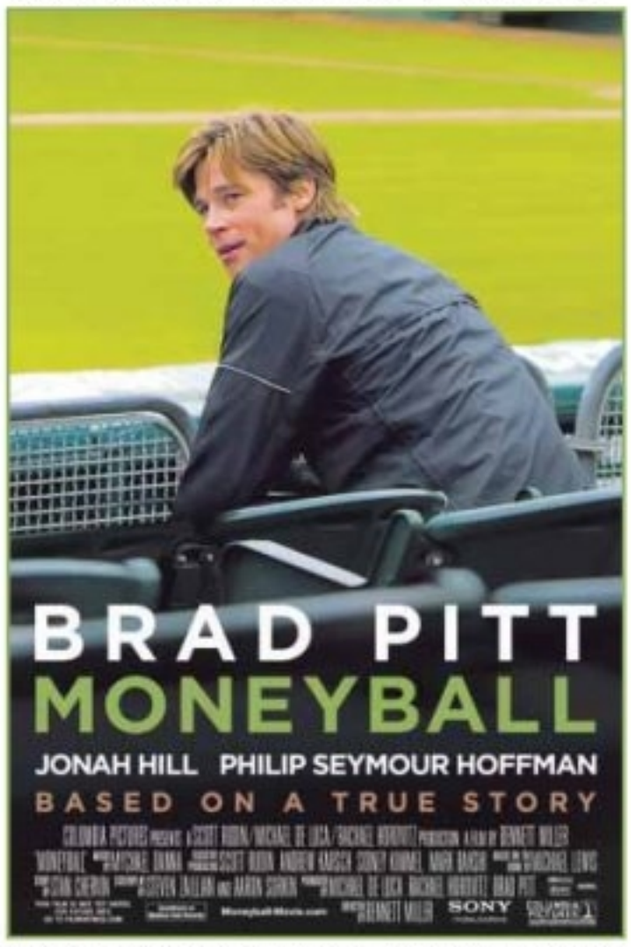

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Do you fancy Dancy?

He once got personalized pajamas from the Toronto Film Festival

But despite this year's lack of free gifts, actor Hugh Dancy is back at the fest

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Hugh Dancy makes the rounds at this year's Toronto Film Festival.

Hugh Dancy has been keeping busy. After a scene-stealing supporting role in this summer's "Our Idiot Brother," Dancy brings two distinctly different films to TIFF. First, he stars alongside Elizabeth Olsen in the harrowing Sundance favorite "Martha Marcy Mae Marlene." Later in the fest, he'll be debuting "Hysteria," about the development of the first vibrator.

You have a couple of films here at the festival.
Yes. First of all, I'm leaving in between the two of them, so it feels like two festivals. I'll just come back with a whole new set of clothes. And ["Hysteria"] I haven't seen, so that's a strange experience. I thought, "Well I can try and watch it before, but at this point, when it's three days away, what's the point?" It's like having a dress rehearsal for your own execution, you know?

www.metro.us
MORE TIFF
FOR THE FULL INTERVIEW AND MORE TIFF NEWS, VISIT WWW.METRO.US/MOVIES

So you're seeing it here?
Yes. In fact, it's odd. I will be doing press about it before I've actually seen it, which is always an odd experience. You're saying, "Yes, I love my co-workers, they're deeply sensitive individuals, and we're really scratching away at the nature of things." But I haven't got a clue.

We get a lot of quotes like that about actors working together.
Well, it's unfortunately, boringly true that the majority of people you work with are nice or decent. ... It takes somebody to be a real prick to kind of throw things off-balance.

Will you have any time to see anything else?
I think the only thing I will get to see is "The Descendants." That's about it. I've been to TIFF twice ... but when I came the first time — which would've been four years ago — I arrived in my hotel room to find a pair of pristine, white pajamas with my name stitched into the pocket — "Hugh." It was very sweet. I still own them. That's how this festival has changed! Where are my pajamas?

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Quoted

"No, it wasn't a real wedding. I'm single. I'm not married. It was a real ceremony, but the groom is actually a fellow actor, and also a very good friend of mine. It is just a theatrical performance that runs like a real wedding."

LYDIA HEARST ON HER FAUX WEDDING CEREMONY DURING THE IMITATION OF CHRIST SHOW.

Fashion week reviews

1 Rodarte
With Taylor Swift, Beyonce and Solange Knowles, Dakota and Elle Fanning, Kim Gordon and David Byrne all sitting front row (yes, all of them) it could have been easy for the guests to steal the spotlight from the clothes. But there was no looking away from Kate and Laura Mulleavy's innovative, yet wearable clothes. The dresses were textured, crinkled, gathered and draped, each one more ornately constructed than the next. But more than anything, the Mulleavy sisters deserve a hug for giving us a break from the sea of Easter egg colors we've seen this week. A girl can only take but so much pink and yellow. Instead, they worked in a rich color palette that included marigold, aqua, almond, silver and gold. KENYA HUNT

2 Alice + Olivia
Astroturf, fancy wrought iron benches, champagne and cupcakes created a garden party setting for Stacey Bendet's spring collection. This season the designer looked to the "colors of Palm Beach in the 1960s" and the sophistication of the 1940s. (For more on her inspirations and an inside look at the presentation, watch our video at www.metro.us.)

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WWW.METRO.US/STYLE FOR THE LATEST NEW YORK FASHION WEEK UPDATES

Whatever her starting point, Bendet's line, as usual, embodies her carefree, fun spirit. She even did a version of the funky, vertical-striped pants that put her on the map. There were flirty dresses in lively corals, sky blues and floral prints; silhouettes ranged from A-line minis to strapless and fitted to flouncy. Most looks came cinched at the waist, above the knee and embellished with sequins. These are numbers for girls with an active social calendar to frolic in — perfect for all the PYTs like Kourtney Kardashian, Eva Amurri and Lydia Hearst in attendance. TINA CHADHA

3 Herve Leger
It must be hard to keep putting a new spin on the bandage dress, but to their credit, designers Max and Lubov Azria find ways. This season they worked with weaving and braiding in metallics and tribal prints. The show opened with warriorlike gold foil dresses featuring intricate cutouts and braided strap detailing that felt more "Mad Max," less red carpet. This was the problem with some of the looks with fringe and weaving — they seemed too fantastical for real life. But there were black and white options, however, that read fresh and sexy for those women searching for a good party dress. METRO/TC

4 Rachel Zoe
It's as though Rachel Zoe looked to her closet — specifically the amazing racks of '70s vintage we're sure the stylist-turned-designer has collected — as the inspiration for her spring line. (She cites Brigitte Bardot.) There were mostly loose-fit maxi dresses, some featuring floral prints, one-shoulder or high slits up the thigh; gauzy floor-length skirts; chic blazers and glam sequin party dresses. The designer herself was in look No. 7, the flowy high-waisted palazzo pants, as she walked ladies such as Anna Dello Russo and Molly Sims through the show. We can see this wearable collection — especially the "bananas" sky-high heels — becoming as popular as Zoe's unavoidable catch phrases. METRO/TC

5 Tory Burch
Now that's how you put on your first runway show! Tory Burch dazzled editors and buyers with her pretty, feminine and wearable spring collection. First separates came in cheery corals, yellows and seafoam greens and several mixed and matched prints for interesting, quirky layered looks — like a striped sweater with polka dots peeking out from the sleeves, worn over a floral print skirt. Other stunners: anything with sequins, the navy and cream series and the closing chiffon gowns. We can't wait for the next one. METRO/TC

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Marc by Marc Jacobs
It's well known that Jacobs has had a lot on his plate lately, with his rumored negotiations with Christian Dior and all. Maybe that explains the simpler than usual approach to his spring collection, which featured preppy sportswear classics in navy and Kelly green with lots of neon mixed in. It was all kind of "club kid leaves the raves to go to college." The brights were the stars of the show. It wasn't his most earth-shatteringly creative collection for his secondary line, but will probably be a retail hit nonetheless. (Who doesn't want a piece of Marc?) KENYA HUNT

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Today in medicine

Food-borne illness numbers

Study subjects: Various people diagnosed with food poisoning
Location of study: U.S.
Results: WebMD reports that in 2008, food-borne disease "caused 23,152 cases of illness, nearly 1,300 hospitalizations and 22 deaths. But because most food-borne illnesses go unreported, the actual numbers are much higher. The CDC estimates that contaminated food causes as many as 48 million illnesses annually."
Significance: 2008 is the most recent year that such information is available. The report concludes, "The total number of outbreaks was 10 percent less than the average number reported from 2003 to 2007. The number of outbreak-related illnesses in 2008 was also lower — by 5 percent."

LEAH-ANNE THOMPSON

▶ She might not need that needle after all.

WWW.METRO.US/WELLBEING
MORE HEALTH NEWS

HPV vaccine dose amounts

Study subjects: 7,466 Costa Rican women
Location of study: U.S.
Results: CNN reports: "A new study suggests that girls and women may not need all three recommended doses of HPV vaccine to get the necessary protection to prevent cervical cancer."
Significance: Cutting dosage may limit side effects and cut costs.

Global cancer levels rise

Study subjects: Cancer patients
Location of study: U.K.
Results: The BBC reports that the "number of new cancer cases has increased by 20 percent in under a decade and now stands at 12 million a year, according to the World Cancer Research Fund." It also states that "nearly a quarter of those cases are 'preventable.'"
Significance: Almost three million new diagnoses per year "are linked to diet, exercise and obesity."

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mywellbeing

GETTY IMAGES

Study. Alcohol

▶ This might explain all that drunk-dialing.

This is your brain on booze. Any questions?

Why do we act like fools when we drink too much? New research out of the University of Missouri found that alcohol weakens the power of our brain's "signal" that tells us we're making a mistake, and also lessens our concern about said errors. "Our study isn't the first to show that alcohol reduces this alarm signal; but contrary to previous studies, our study shows that alcohol doesn't reduce your awareness of mistakes — it reduces how much you care about making those mistakes," says Bruce Bartholow, associate professor of psychology at MU. METRO/ME

Nutrition

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▶ Precise Portions

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METRO/ME

Sorry, boys

Only 30 percent of the male sexual enhancement supplements ConsumerLab.com reviewed passed their quality tests. Four products had less of a significant ingredient than was reported, two products were missing FDA-required information on their labels and one product had an unsafe level of lead.
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Bulk up on muscle health

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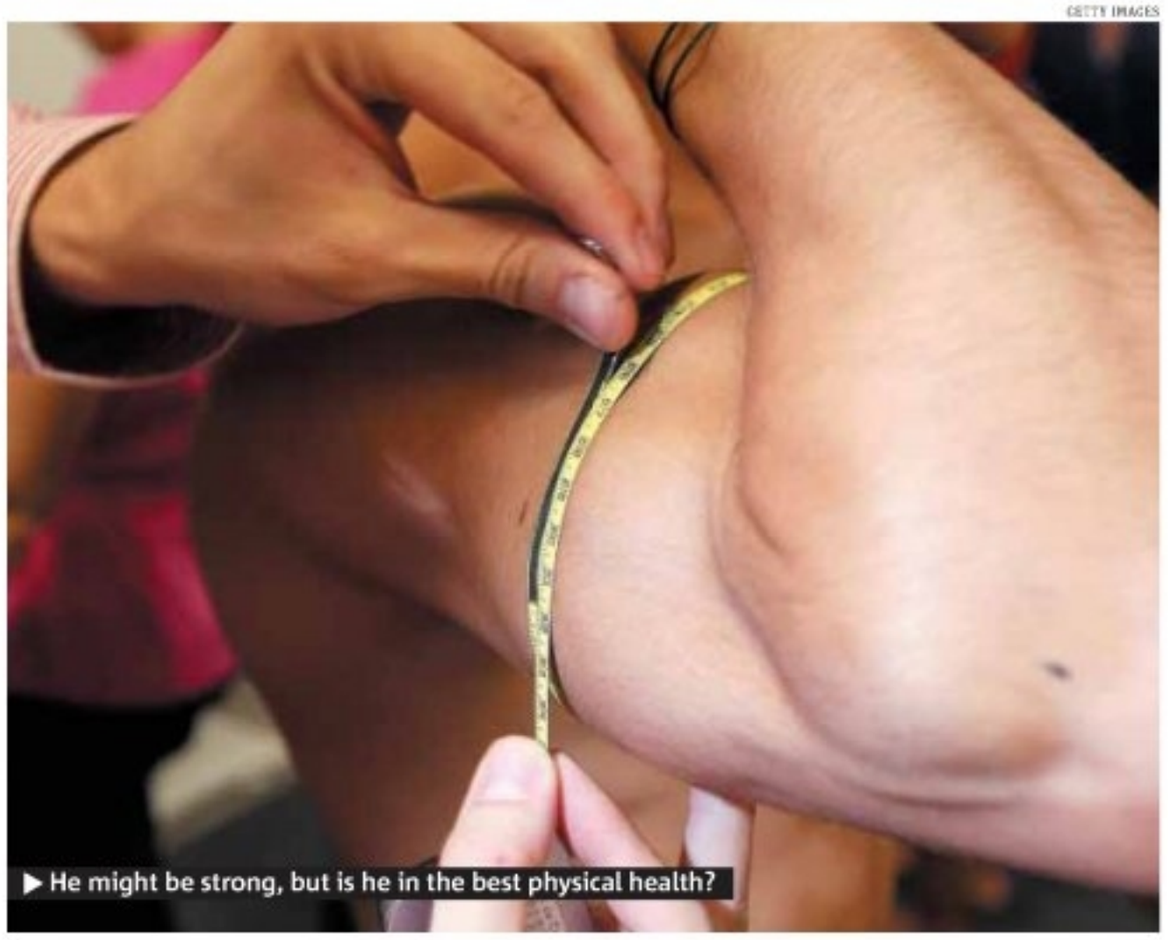

▶ He might be strong, but is he in the best physical health?

◗ Ginormous guns shouldn't be the goal ◗ What happens when you overdo it ◗ Rethink your proteins

There's more to muscle health than building and strengthening. Of course, strong muscles aid movement and provide proper support to hold the skeleton erect and aligned. But bulking up muscles too much can cause the opposite effect. It's important to keep your muscles at their fittest — without overstretching things.

"Muscles are what moves us. Every movement is about our muscles," says Jenn Coia, LMT, who works at Manhattan's Spa Merge. "I used to work at a gym when I was in massage school. I'd see these guys with big, hulking muscles and they could barely move. They're decreasing their range of motion of every joint. If you can't move, then you're having to compensate for what should be a natural range of motion."

The result can be injury, ranging from tightness and soreness in other areas to joint wear and postural problems, including restriction of blood flow or even nerve damage. "That's why yoga and Pilates took off. They allow you to build toned muscles, but they allow you to be functional," says Coia.

As a massage therapist, Coia works to heal and prevent further injury on sore and damaged muscles. "If there's an injury, it can help with the healing of scar tissue by aligning muscle fibers."

The muscle needs time to repair with simple rest, too. "If you overstretch a muscle, you create micro-tears. That muscle will heal itself because it's just a micro-injury. But you've pushed too hard and need to recover."

What to eat

High-protein diets are synonymous with muscle-building, but "high-protein diets put a strain on the filtering organs," says Coia. "A balanced diet is always the healthiest choice."

LINDA CLARKE
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myletters&games

Letters

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Corporations care about us

RE: "TEA PARTY: FOR THE RICH ONLY": May I suggest you take an American history class and learn facts before making ridiculous accusations about the Tea Party. These "greedy profiteering corporations" are what employ Americans. From McDonald's to Wal-Mart, they give people jobs — which is what we all need right now. Punishing companies will just stop any progress in this country. Maybe you would like to consider moving to Cuba.
JUSTIN CLEARY, VIA E-MAIL

Time to mine rich's wealth

RE: "OBAMA: LET'S AVOID POLITICAL GAMES": Finally a jobs plan implemented by Obama that seems promising. Eliminating $467 billion in tax breaks for the wealthy and using that money to fund a job proposal isn't such a bad idea. Its about time the wealthier Americans dig into their pockets and help.
RICARDO CUMMINGS, VIA E-MAIL

Bieber needs a new look

The picture on the front page of 9/12/11 Metro of Justin Bieber looks like a very young Jane Fonda. If that's what his new style is, he should change.
MAUREEN MANNING, VIA E-MAIL

Liberators are also terrorists

RE: "NO PACIFIST EVER LIBERATED A DEATH CAMP": Two things: (1) No practicing pacifist ever created a death camp. (2) The people who liberated the death camps in 1945 are the same people who, less than a century earlier, slaughtered Native Americans so white colonizers could mine for gold.
CRAIG SHOEMAKE , VIA E-MAIL

Why blame the victim?

RE: "VIOLENCE IS THE ANSWER": Open mouth, insert foot. You really laid an egg by saying women's scanty clothes provoke rape! They may provoke active harassment by men — I've always called wearing scanty clothes passive harassment by women. But rape is altogether different: It's about not sex, but power and violence.
J. ANDREW SMITH, VIA E-MAIL

So we should blame the murder victim because they were in the wrong place at the wrong time? We should blame the person whose house was robbed because it was so inviting, instead of the thief? You apparently don't think much of personal responsibility.
SARA MINOR, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**
Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** You won't find a better day to sort out a problem that's been on your mind. You should easily be able to take it apart and find the intrinsic clues that will lead you to the perfect solution.
♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Don't take any wild risks, but do follow any instincts and/or hunches pertaining to your financial dealings. Your perceptions are better than usual.
♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Immediately disassociate yourself from any negative-thinkers. Instead, associate yourself with those you believe to be lucky. Some of their good instincts will rub off on you.
♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Sublime conditions will quickly replace any leftover negativity that you wake up with. Be on your toes, because anticipation will help you spot opportunities and gain much power.
♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** After a bumpy start, Lady Luck will look extremely kindly on you. This will be especially true in areas where you are able to express your personal creativity.
♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Be particularly watchful for developments that would enhance your financial well-being and position. This could be a better than usual time for you.
♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Good news is on its way pertaining to one of your personal interests. Be sure to take advantage of it in a manner that would enhance all possibilities.
♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** It behooves you to focus your efforts and energies on work-related issues that can yield you a large profit and/or enhance your material interests in some manner.
♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Certain friends and contacts could be luckier for you than usual. Hang out with those who provide you with fun and have an interest in your affairs.
♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** If you need some type of help or assistance, turn to those who you know have the expertise you require. If there is one person in particular whom you've previously aided, go to him or her first.
♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** You should put aside whatever is bothering you and turn toward optimism and accomplishment. You stand a good chance of succeeding.
♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** No one is better than you at sorting out critical issues in ways that are advantageous to yourself and others. Use your gifts to handle something very important. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

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Across
1 Kind of recall
6 Pilots' sightings
10 Cornfield robber
14 Bring cheer
15 Zilch
16 Exude moisture
17 Fruit stand item
18 Orderly
19 Physics particle
20 Go from flower to flower
22 Change a bill
23 Explorer Ponce de __
24 Will not
26 Compete for
29 Billionth, in combos
31 Trim a doily
32 White vestment
33 Giant-ant horror film
34 Raises
38 Midwest st.
40 Chromosome material
42 Not often seen
43 Prose pieces
46 Run in neutral
49 Muscle spasm
50 Caesar's man
51 Bon Ami rival
52 Top NCO
53 Solar event
57 Foot part
59 Meadow feature
60 Sticker
65 Funny __ Buzzi
66 Cattle-call reward
67 Jungian term
68 Peter Gunn's girl
69 Economist __ Greenspan
70 Clumsy
71 Take care of
72 Bulk
73 Pastor's abode

Down
1 Work part-time
2 Tub in the fridge
3 Statuesque
4 Coral formation
5 Easy-going
6 Raw, as hides
7 __ accompli
8 More peculiar
9 Voice an opinion
10 Carpooler
11 Bounders
12 Endangered layer
13 Makes one's way
21 Webster or Beery
22 Distant
25 Riviera summer
26 Barn topper
27 Henri's aits
28 Subsides
30 "__ vincit amor"
35 Tabbies or calicos
36 Math course
37 Splinter group
39 Enthralled
41 Next to
44 Kennel sounds
45 Almost-grads
47 Escapade
48 Cry out
53 Everglades wader
54 Unrefined
55 Forum speech
56 Quebec school
58 Redhead's tint
61 Viking name
62 Good, in Guatemala
63 Foul callers
64 Appraise
66 Bleacher shout

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

K	I	E	V	■	L	I	T	U	P	■	P	O	L	
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■	■	B	A	I	Z	E	■	V	A	L	L	E	■	■
■	F	I	E	S	T	A	■	D	A	L	E	■	■	■
W	A	L	N	U	T	■	C	O	D	■	T	A	R	
H	U	L	A	■	E	L	U	D	E	■	S	L	E	
I	C	I	■	■	O	R	O	■	■	M	C	■	■	
R	E	N	T	■	B	A	L	S	A	■	B	O	E	
S	T	I	R	■	E	M	S	■	D	I	R	N	D	
■	■	A	R	C	S	■	F	A	C	A	D	E	■	■
S	T	U	C	C	O	■	D	O	P	E	Y	■	■	■
T	A	N	T	A	M	O	U	N	T	■	I	C	K	
O	R	D	O	■	E	V	A	D	E	■	N	U	I	

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS: WWW.METRO.US/PUZZLES

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Learning process continues for late-inning specialist

Stutes capitalizing on opportunity Injuries thrust him into key role Studies Halladay, Lee for pointers

When the subject of Phillies rookie pitcher is bandied about, Vance Worley scores most of the headlines. But another freshman hurler has also impressed.

Michael Stutes (6-1, 3.62 ERA) has had good season out of the bullpen. The laid-back Oregon native had a very good spring and has been solid ever since being called up after Jose Contreras was placed on the DL in late April.

"I've been pretty fortunate with the opportunity I've been given this year," Stutes said. "I try to pitch the same way no matter what role I fill. I try to throw good pitches and get outs."

Stutes, 25, started in middle relief but injuries have turned him into a seventh- and eighth-inning specialist. Stutes has primarily pitched well, but he has had his rough outings. When he attacks hitters, he has been effective. When Stutes has nibbled, he has struggled.

"The key to pitching is getting ahead," Stutes said. "That's so on any level, but it's really so in the majors. You try not to be in 3-0 or 3-1 counts because if the hitters here know what's coming, they're not going to miss it. It's a learning process."

Watching Roy Halladay and Cliff Lee is also part of that process.

"It's a lot of fun to watch what they do," Stutes said. "Those guys don't pitch around anyone because they're the biggest pitchers in the game. There is no hitter bigger than they are. I watch them just like the fans do out in center field. All the guys in the pen are rooting for them."

ED CONDRAN
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GETTY IMAGES

Stutes had a 3.62 ERA entering last night's game.

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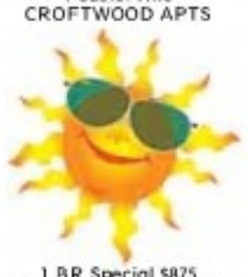

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NFL Power Rankings

Green Bay retains Metro's top spot ◗ Eagles jump three spots to No. 4 ◗ Ravens leapfrog Steelers ◗ Can Falcons rebound after Week 1 loss?

1 PACKERS (1-0)
Aaron Rodgers (132.1 QB rating) was ridiculous in the opener and justified our preseason No. 1 ranking. Afterward, he joked about scoring more points had he organized workouts. Throw in rookie Randall Cobb, and it's only going to get better, folks.

2 PATRIOTS (1-0)
We figured the Pats would score a lot of points, but that even surprised us. If there was ever a doubt that Tom Brady wasn't the best quarterback in the NFL, his 517-yard (four TDs) performance should have erased it from memory.

3 N.Y. JETS (1-0)
You can blame Tony Romo for choking if you want, but Rex Ryan's crew took care of business when it counted. And Plaxico Burress looked like he hadn't missed a beat.

4 EAGLES (1-0)
The offense started slow and still put 31 points on the board. We've already seen glimpses of how good this team can be — and if the Birds are half as good as they say, wow.

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5 RAVENS (1-0)
Joe Flacco got the monkey off his back by beating Big Ben. If he plays like this for 16 weeks, it's crab cakes for everyone.

6 CHARGERS (1-0)
Looked rusty versus a bad Vikings team, but you have to win the ugly ones. Losing two starters — K Nick Kaeding, DE Luis Castillo — could be an issue.

7 STEELERS (0-1)
Losing a road game to a tough division opponent is nothing to panic about. They'll bounce back versus cupcake Seattle.

8 BEARS (1-0)
Brian Urlacher (interception, fumble TD recovery, 10 tackles) won't be disrespected — and neither should Jay Cutler.

9 FALCONS (0-1)
Our preseason darlings looked overmatched. We're not giving up on them just yet ... but they need a strong showing versus Philadelphia to move back up.

10 SAINTS (0-1)
Drew Brees and shiny new weapon Darren Sproles are scary good. But the defense looks like their Achilles' heel.

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ONE (BLEEP) OF A GAME

Opinion

JASON McINTYRE
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Quoted

"You're a hater and unattractive on the inside ... I expressed myself. We're in America last time I checked."

Everybody's going nuts over Tom Brady's 517 yards passing on Monday Night Football, but clearly the highlight was Ron Jaworski accidentally cursing while talking about Chad Henne.

The mild-mannered Jaws slipped in a bad word that rhymes with hit while talking about how easy a play should have been. He said it so matter-of-factly that he might as well have been teaching receivers a stop-and-go pattern. With two minutes left in the game, it was time to apologize: "a little earlier in the show, when **Chad Henne** was making a throw, I said an inappropriate word so I want to apologize. I hope I didn't offend anyone with that word." Then came about six seconds of awkward silence.

Nothing like cursing on live TV to spice up an already-interesting game.

Hater in the house

I don't know if people still make prank (or is it crank?) phone calls, but someone with deft audio skills should cut up the **Serena Williams** rant at the U.S. Open from this past weekend and really have fun with it. I'd imagine the call going something like this (Serena's actual quotes are listed below):

- **Victim:** "Hello?"
- **Prank caller:** "You're a hater and unattractive inside."
- **Victim:** "What?"
- **Prank caller:** "Don't look at me. Don't look my way."
- **Victim:** "I think you have the wrong number."
- **Prank caller:** "If you ever see me walking down the hall, look the other way because you're out of control."
- **Victim:** "You got the wrong number."
- **Prank caller:** "I expressed myself; we're in America last time I checked."

Pour one out for Tupac

I don't know where you stand on the East Coast-West Coast rap wars of the 1990s, but Sept. 13, 1996, will always live in infamy. Rapper **Tupac Shakur** died that day. I thought I'd take you back to see what the sports landscape looked like:

MLB: Yankees beat the Orioles in the ALCS when a kid named **Jeffrey Maier** reached over the fence and took a homer away from Baltimore's **Tony Tarasco** and then rallied to beat the Braves in the World Series.

NBA: Michael Jordan won the All-Star game MVP, NBA MVP and NBA Finals MVP. The Bulls beat **Shawn Kemp** and the Sonics in the Finals.

NFL: Brett Favre, back when people liked him, helped the Packers top the Patriots in the Super Bowl.

– Jason Raj McIntyre covers athletes off the field and runs the popular blog, The Big Lead.

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This adage couldn't be more true than it is right now In Philly, there are better deals when you buy

This might just be the time to purchase a new home.

Recent data from real estate website Trulia.com found that buying is cheaper than renting in 74 percent of the nation's major cities.

In locations such as Las Vegas, Philadelphia and Detroit — where foreclosures have been rampant, unemployment is high and prices have dropped considerably — purchasing a home can mean lower monthly mortgage payments than rents, according to the real estate site.

"With interest rates where they are and property values really on the very, very low side, it's a good opportunity to buy," says Joanne Davidow, a vice president at Prudential Fox & Roach in Philadelphia. "A lot of sellers have gotten very real as far as prices are concerned."

The survey compared rents for two-bedroom units to the selling price of two-bedroom properties. In many communities, rents are high and vacancy rates are low because people are squeamish about making a large purchase during a down economy. Many homeowners are opting to bank their money and rent instead of purchasing a new place.

"Prospective homebuyers no longer see homes as a quick moneymaking investment," says Pete Flint, CEO and co-founder of Trulia. "They are proceeding with more caution, asking themselves if they are planning to live in the home for several years, have enough money saved up to make a down payment and can pay a monthly mortgage."

Quoted

"With interest rates where they are and property values really on the very, very low side, it's a good opportunity to buy." JOANNE DAVIDOW

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▶ Time to call your broker: In 74 percent of the country it's cheaper to buy than rent, according to Trulia.com.

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Bankrate.com

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15 yr fixed	3.625	0.000	$0	20%	3.779
10 yr fixed	3.500	0.000	$0	20%	3.648
5/1 ARM	3.000	0.000	$0	20%	3.046
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Program	Rate	Points	Fees	% Down	APR
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15 yr jumbo	3.875	0.000	$166	20%	3.881
30 yr jumbo	4.625	0.000	$166	20%	4.628
30/15 Fixed Jumbo 4.375%					
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Legend: The rate and annual percentage rate (APR) are effective as of 9/12/11. © 2011 Bankrate, Inc. http://www.interest.com. The APR may increase after consummation and may vary. Payments do not include amounts for taxes and insurance. The fees set forth for each advertisement above may be charged to open the plan. (A) Mortgage Banker, (B) Mortgage Broker, (C) Bank, (D) S & L, (E) Credit Union, (BA) indicates Licensed Mortgage Banker, NYS Banking Dept., (BR) indicates Registered Mortgage Broker, NYS Banking Dept., (loans arranged through third parties). "Call for Rates" means actual rates were not available at press time. All rates are quoted on a minimum FICO score of 700. Conventional loans are based on loan amounts of $165,000. Jumbo loans are based on loan amounts of $485,800. Points quoted include discount and/or origination. Lock Days: 30-60. Annual percentage rates (APRs) are based on fully indexed rates for adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs). The APR on your specific loan may differ from the sample used. Fees reflect charges relative to the APR. If your down payment is less than 20% of the home's value, you will be subject to private mortgage insurance, or PMI. Bankrate, Inc. does not guarantee the accuracy of the information appearing above or the availability of rates and fees in this table. All rates, fees and other information are subject to change without notice. Bankrate, Inc. does not own any financial institutions. Some or all of the companies appearing in this table pay a fee to appear in this table. If you are seeking a mortgage in excess of $417,000, recent legislation may enable lenders in certain local areas to provide rates that are different from those shown in the table above. Sample Repayment Terms – ex. 360 monthly payments of $5.28 per $1,000 borrowed ex. 180 monthly payments of $7.56 per $1,000 borrowed. We recommend that you contact your lender directly to determine what rates may be available to you. **To appear in this table, call 800-509-4636. To report any inaccuracies, call 888-509-4636. • http://www.interest.com?pid=r_PHMMET**

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NYC remains pricey

Owning a home may be cheaper in most U.S. cities, but Boston and New York are among the exceptions. They're part of the approximately 12 percent of the nation's cities where renting is still easier on the budget than buying.

Newlyweds Erin and Brian Fleming were hoping to move out of their Boston rental and purchase their first home, but realized quickly they couldn't afford it.

"I think to own the place we rent would cost at least $600,000, which we could never afford. We pay around $1,600 in rent [monthly]," says Brian Fleming.

Philly pricing

This two-bedroom in South Philadelphia is on the market for $159,900.

The estimated mortgage payments, according to Trulia.com, would be $940 a month. The median rent for a two-bedroom in Philadelphia is $1,150-$1,650, according to Trulia.com.

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